Save Foggy Bottom...It's Where We Live! Published by the Foggy Bottom Association

FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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FBA's January Meeting Kicks Off New Year

The FBA's first general membership meeting of 2006 saw a good turnout and residents contributed to a lively discussion about Foggy Bottom and West End issues that will dominate the neighborhood agenda this year.

The Jan. 30 meeting at the Melrose Hotel had about 50 attendees, and in addition to FBA and Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A officers, also heard a variety of voices from members on everything from a looming special ANC election to concerns over meetings being held by the city and GWU on the future of Square 54.

The featured speaker was Marie Karl, senior vice president of development for Trammell Crow, which is building the condominiums at the former Columbia Hospital for Women site. Karl showed a series of photos of the condos' progress and said the Columbia expects its first residents to move in by April or May.

ANC Hopeful: ANC West End Candidate Michael Thomas addresses the FBA meeting, while FBA President Joy Howell looks on. Photos: FBN

All but one of the 225 units – a two-bedroom condo going for just under $1 million – are sold, Karl said. The west side on 25th St. is the more developed section, and is where the Trader Joe's grocery store – something eagerly awaited by the community – will be located. Karl estimated the store could be open as early as June.

Attentive Audience: The FBA's Jan. 30 meeting drew a crowd at the Melrose Hotel. Featured speaker Marie Karl is second from left in front row.

Parking concerns

One item of concern to neighbors, as voiced by residents of the Tiverton apartment building on 24th St. and by FBA Board member Jackie Lemire, who lives in the Westbridge on 26th St. and Pennsylvania Ave., was that parking spots lost to the development for the past two years return to the neighborhood.

Lemire said residents in her building want residential, city-zoned parking spaces on the block, which runs around the Columbia on 24th, 25th and L Sts. By agreement, Trader Joe's will necessitate elimination of about three spots on 25th St. for trucks to maneuver.

There will also be some no-parking zones near loading docks around the building, Karl said, but she said she would work with the community to help restore parking spots. She also said FBA neighbors would likely be able to tour of the condos as they begin to open.

"I wish all the developers we work with kept their agreements as well as Trammell Crow," said FBA President Joy Howell.

West End ANC election set

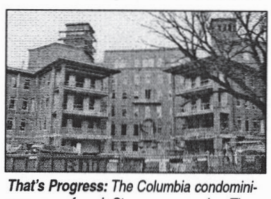
There will be a contested election for the ANC-2A02 seat recently vacated by longtime resident Richard Price, according to Michael Thomas, who pitched his candidacy for the West End seat at the FBA meeting. *(See FBN, 2-1-06.)* Thomas said he is likely to have two opponents in the election. *(The FBN will profile the candidates as the election approaches.)*

The election is scheduled for March 15 at the ANC's usual monthly meeting, Thomas said. Its location is to be determined, because the ANC usually meets in Foggy Bottom at the State Plaza Hotel and the open seat is in West End.

Square 54 concerns linger

Several members of the community expressed concerns over meetings planned for early February on Square 54's future as GWU was readying its plans for the square, which by most accounts will include commercial development, over the objections of the FBA and ANC 2A.

Howell and immediate past FBA president Ron Cocome told the meeting the FBA felt that a planned meeting to be held in conjunction with the city's Office of Planning at the West End Library on Feb. 4 was being held with too short notice. At press time last week, the meeting was scheduled to go forward; the FBN will provide coverage in a subsequent issue.



That's Progress: The Columbia condominiums, seen from L St., are progressing. The original towers shown here, built in 1915, will be preserved as part of the project.

Square 37 Redux?
Development Talk Spurs Concern Over West End Library's Future

The West End Library will host two crucial meetings that could affect its future as a neighborhood landmark this month. Both are free and open to the public.

Tonight, Feb. 8, the D.C. Public Library Board will meet at 6 p.m. The board will take public comments to start the meeting and the agenda includes Councilmember Kathy Patterson (D-Ward 3), who has oversight of the city's libraries, according to Robert Haas, president of the West End Library Friends group.

On Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m., the branch will host a "listening session," one of many set for various library branches around the city on the future of the library system.

As reported in a front-page story in the Jan. 25 *Foggy Bottom Current*, the library's board is giving consideration to developing the area around some library branches and may be targeting the West End library, which sits on Square 37. Richard Levy, who chairs the library board's facilities committee, said last week that the library system citywide needs "half a billion dollars" to renovate and upgrade its branches.

"The West End library is obviously on a piece of valuable land," he told the *FBN*. "The city is looking at it because it owns land, including the [Special Operations] police station. Developers are nosing around and there is interest" in developing the area, he said, though he would not identify the developers.

"We'll have to see how the community feels," Levy added. "We have more questions than we have answers right now."

Square 37 was bone of contention for property owners and developers who sought to rezone it two years ago from residential to higher-density commercial. A tenants association at the Tiverton apartments next to the library – in tandem with the FBA, ANC 2A and others – helped make a case before the Zoning Commission that ended in a 4-0 vote in favor of keeping the square's zoning residential.

The library board recently came up with a plan that, according to the Jan. 18 *Washington Post*, has come under criticism for putting forth proposals, such as redeveloping around library branches, without first getting citizens' input.

WELF President Haas is a strong proponent of keeping the well-used West End library strong. The branch has undergone significant renovations in the past few years *(FBN, 1-18)*.

"We very much want to keep the West End library where it is," Haas said. "Clearly one of our questions will be what people are talking about in terms of possibly developing the property there [and] I would rather keep it as a distinct, two-story building.

"The report talked about branch requirements including having a building with at least 20,000 square feet, visible when passing by foot or car, and having a stand-alone facility," he said. "That's the West End; we have a lot of what they require."

Haas, who has headed the WELF since the end of 2004, said the library gets lots of traffic from the West End / Foggy Bottom area and Dupont Circle residents. If there are any pending changes, "We want to be part of that discussion process and, of course, want to know what the neighbors think too," he said. *FBN*

St. Mary's Tour This Saturday

The FBA will sponsor a free tour of St. Mary's Episcopal Church on 23rd St. this Saturday, Feb. 11 at 10:30 a.m. St. Mary's was designed by James Renwick, the architect of the Smithsonian Castle and the Renwick Gallery. For more information, contact the FBA's Jackie Lemire, 202-337-2167 or jglemire@aol.com.

Kreuzer Case to be Heard Friday

Donald Kreuzer's six-year battle with GWU heads to court this Friday, Feb. 10. Dr. Kreuzer is seeking a jury trial to decide whether GWU's new dormitory trespasses on his 126 year-old home at 600 23rd St., where he has lived and practiced dentistry for 28 years, and whether GWU used unlawful "blockbusting" tactics to force him from Foggy Bottom.

Foggy Bottom residents are encouraged to attend the trial, which will be one of the most important legal cases in our neighborhood's history. The hearing will be at 9:30 a.m. at the D.C. Court of Appeals, Moultrie Courthouse, 500 Indiana Ave. NW, 6th floor (Judiciary Square metro stop). A decision is not expected for several months after the hearing, according to Michael Hannon, Kreuzer's attorney. *FBN*

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The Foggy Bottom News is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the FBN reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

FBA Officers:
PRESIDENT – Joy Howell
VICE PRESIDENT – Barbara Spillinger
SECRETARY – Jill Nevius
TREASURER – Russell Conlan
MEMBERSHIP – Edward B. Gable Jr.

FBA Board of Directors:
Ellie Becker, Joseph G. Chaplick, Elizabeth B. Elliott, Jacqueline G. Lemire, Michael G. Malloy, James R. O'Leary, Ronald Cocome (Immediate Past President; *Ex Officio*)

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Use that FBA Membership Card!

Foggy Bottom Association members receive a variety of discounts from local area merchants simply by showing our membership card! Here's a list – and stay tuned for our "Preferred Merchants Program," coming in 2006! The membership card also allows FBA members use of GWU's Gelman Library.

FBA MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Blackie's Restaurant
1217 22nd St., NW
Tel: 333-1100 • Fax: 331-7850
50% discount on any wines offered by the glass; valid only with dinner

Chateau Florist
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 293-9005
10% off any arrangement of at least $25

Danny Diaz, Ltd. (Men's Clothing)
522 23rd St., NW
Tel: 296-2767
20% off merchandise; 10% off men's and women's alterations

Elenco Salon
504 23rd St., NW
Tel: 293-3006
$5 discount on any hair service

Expressions (Fine Clothing)
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 775-9299
15% discount

Grillfish Restaurant
1200 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Tel: 331-7310 • Fax: 331-3751
10% off food purchases (does not apply to alcohol)

Marshall's Bar & Grille
2524 L St., NW
Tel: 333-1155 • Fax: 333-4664
10% off; does not apply to any other discounts

Metropolitan Optical
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 659-6555 • Fax: 659-2134
15% off any eyewear purchase; not applicable with other offers or on contact lenses

New Hampshire Valet
600 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Tel: 342-5700
10% off dry cleaning, laundry, shoe repair

One Fish Two Fish
2423 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 882-0977
10% off total meal bill for dine-in and carry-out only; not available on delivery orders

Primi Piatti
2013 Eye St., NW
Tel: 223-3600 • Fax: 296-3725
10% off check

ProEuro Hair Design
2100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 887-9191
10% off haircut and style; 20% off color highlights or perm

600 Restaurant at the Watergate
600 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Tel: 337-5890 • Fax: 337-5895
10% discount after 8:00 p.m. (does not apply to bar service or alcohol)

Sizzling Express Columbia Plaza
538 23rd St., NW
Tel: 659-1234 • Fax: 659-2800
10% off hot foods, salads, sandwiches and fountain sodas (does not apply to sushi)

Thai Coast Restaurant
2514 L St., NW
Tel: 333-2460 • Fax: 333-2462
10% discount on food in restaurant (does not apply to alcohol)

Watch & Band Clinic
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 785-4552 • Fax: 785-4552
15% off leather watch bands

Watergate Gallery & Frame Design
2552 Virginia Ave., NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 338-4488 • Fax: 338-4451
10% off custom framing

Watergate Photo & Copy
2560 Virginia Ave., NW
Tel: 333-7700 • Fax: 333-3083
10% discount

Watergate Valet
2546 Virginia Ave., NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 337-7570
10% discount on dry cleaning and laundry

Watergate Wine and Beverage
2544 Virginia Ave., NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 333-0636 • Fax: 965-2416
Wine: 10% off per case • Liquor or Water: 5% off per case

Williams The Tailor
825 21st St., NW
Tel: 822-8000
10% off general alteration and repair

The Wine Specialist
2115 M St., NW
Tel: 833-0707 • Fax: 833-9507
10% off on all non-sale items (includes single bottle / cases of wine, liquor, beer, water, soda, etc.); not valid with other sales and promotions

Health Screenings at St. Mary's Court Friday

Medical evaluators from Life Line will be testing people for warning signs of stroke, aneurysm and other health hazards at St. Mary's Court this Friday, Feb. 10. There are costs for various procedures, ranging from $35 to $45. Pre-registration is required; contact Mindy Facenda of Life Line at 800-897-9177, x898 or mfacenda@llsa.com; www.lifelinescreening.com.